

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4422

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW 2276

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFIN, PL

SUBJECT: CY 1974 TRAVEL

REF: STATE 074257

1. DRAWING ON THE LANGUAGE OF REFTEL WE WROTE THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE APRIL 8 TO REQUEST PAYMENT. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A REPLY TO OUR LETTER, BUT IN AN APRIL 15 CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY SCI ATT, KAPUSTA (DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE) NOTED THAT THIS PAYMENT WILL VIRTUALLY EXHAUST THE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR TRAVEL IN 1975.

2. THE EMBASSY'S ESTIMATE OF 1975 TRAVEL FUND REQUIREMENTS WAS BASED ON 1974 DISBURSEMENTS. IT NOW APPEARS THAT A SUBSTANTIAL VOLUME OF TRAVEL EXPENDITURES INCURRED IN 1974 WERE NOT PROCESSED BY POLISH AUTHORITIES FOR PAYMENT UNTIL EARLY 1975. BY OUR CALCULATIONS, DEDUCTION OF THE 1974 YEAR-END BALANCE WILL EFFECTIVELY EXHAUST THE TRAVEL ACCOUNT. ACTUAL DISBURSEMENTS DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1975 AMOUNTED TO APPROXIMATELY \$427,000, INCLUDING PAYMENTS OF MORE THAN \$250,000 DURING JANUARY, AND WE ESTIMATE FUNDING OF TRAVEL THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF 1975 WILL REQUIRE A MINIMUM REPLENISHMENT OF \$500,000. IN ORDER TO PRESERVE A BALANCE SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW POLISH WITHDRAWAL OF THE PAYMENT WE HAVE REQUESTED. THE EMBASSY

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WILL CEASE DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE TRAVEL ACCOUNT WITHIN

THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

3. WE NOTE THAT PARAGRAPH TWO OF THE TRAVEL AGREEMENT SEEMS TO ENVISION THE POSSIBILITY OF SUPPLEMENTARY REPLENISHMENTS, BUT DOES NOT INDICATE HOW THE PROCESS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT. KAPUSTA REMARKED TO SCI ATT THAT IN HIS OPINION ADDITIONAL FUNDS COULD NOT BE DEPOSITED TO THE ACCOUNT UNTIL MARCH 1976. THIS APPARENTLY SIGNALS THE LINE OF ARGUMENT THE MINISTRY WILL FOLLOW IN PURSUING THE ISSUE WITH US. KAPUSTA MAY HOPE THAT BY CLAIMING THE TRAVEL ACCOUNT CANNOT BE REPLENISHED IN MID-YEAR WE WILL BE PERSUADED TO DROP OUR REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE 1974 YEAR-END BALANCE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED:THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE REPLENISHMENT OF THE TRAVEL ACCOUNT IS ESSENTIAL TO ALLOW ORDERLY PAYMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OBLIGATIONS. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH OUR ESTIMATE OF THE REPLENISHMENT REQUIRED TO PAY TRAVEL EXPENSES DURING THE REMAINDER OF CY 1975. WE ALSO URGENTLY REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENTS GUIDANCE ON THE METHOD WHICH SHOULD BE PROPOSED TO THE POLES FOR REPLENISHING THE TRAVEL ACCOUNT.
DAVIES

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